

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 9 and 10 are herewith amended to limit the characteristic of the materials. The limitations are based on the description disclosed in paragraph 14 line 20 through paragraph 15 line 6 of the original English text. Claims 6, 9, and 10 are also amended to limit the surface treatment. The limitations are based on the description disclosed in paragraph 15 line 7 through paragraph 16 line 11. Claims 7, 8, 11, 13, 14 and 15 are amended according to the above amendments.

The claimed separator is provided with a first surface facing to an anode electrode at one side and a second surface facing to a cathode electrode at the other side. Further, a material for forming the first surface is different from a material for forming the second surface.

For example, the first surface facing to the anode electrode is made from a chrome alloy or gold plating, and the second surface facing to the cathode electrode is made from a nickel alloy or tin plating.

The claimed separator allows small elution of metal ion from the first surface to be small even when the anode electrode side is under the power generating environment of the fuel cell.

Further, a thick oxide coating layer is difficult to form on the second surface even at the cathode electrode side. Therefore, the performance deterioration of the fuel cell can be reduced. Please refer to paragraph 25 line 3 through paragraph 25 line 17 of the original English text.

Yoshimura et al. discloses a metallic gas separator similar in design (two half shells and an intermediate filler).

However, both half members are made of the same material (stainless steel). Further, both half members are coated with a carbon layer.

For this reason, the original Claims 1, 2, 6, 9 and 10 are amended to limit the characteristic of the materials.

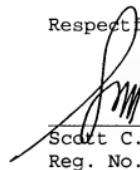
Accordingly, we believe that the examiner's rejections are resolved.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed in this paper. However, failure to address a specific rejection, issue or comment, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above are not intended to be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any

claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Applicants ask that all claims be allowed. No fee is believed to be due, however please apply any applicable charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,



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